

CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 10-12, 15, and 18, cancel claims 13-14, and add new claim 26, all without prejudice, as indicated on the following listing of all the claims in the present application after this Amendment.

1. (Currently amended) An improved system for electronic data sales and distribution over wide area computer networks, said networks comprising a network conduit, at least one e-commerce server computer in communication with said network conduit, and at least one customer terminal computer in communication with said network conduit, each said computer comprising input device means, display device means, processing device means, storage device means and device means for communicating with said network conduit, the system comprising:

an e-commerce site means for presenting e-commerce functions to each said customer in communication with said e-commerce server computer via said network conduit;

a licensing module means for giving each said customer terminal computer permission to download a program module to said customer terminal computer, said licensing module means comprising consisting of an executable software application being executed on each said customer terminal computer engaged in the improved system; and

a program download site means for providing a program module for downloading to each said customer terminal computer responsive to a user request.

2. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said e-commerce site means comprises an executable software application being executed by said processing device means of said ecommerce server computer and said program download site means comprises an executable software application being executed by a processing device means in a program module server computer, said e-commerce server computer and said program module server computer being distinct from one another.

3. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 2, wherein said e-commerce site ~~means~~ further provides each said customer terminal computer with the ability to download said licensing module ~~means~~.
4. (Original) The system of Claim 3, further comprising a supplier terminal computer in local area network communication with said program module server computer.
5. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 3, wherein ~~said functionality of~~ said program module is responsive to output from said licensing module, said program module and said licensing module each comprising executable software applications, wherein output from said licensing module is input to said program module when said program module and said licensing module are executed on the processing device ~~means~~ of a single computer.

6-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) An improved system for software distribution over wide area computer networks, said networks comprising a network conduit, at least one e-commerce server computer in communication with said network conduit, at least one customer terminal computer in communication with said network conduit, and at least one supplier server computer in communication with said network conduit, each said computer comprising at least one programmable computer comprising input device ~~means~~, display device ~~means~~, processing device ~~means~~, storage device ~~means~~ and device ~~means~~ for communicating with said network conduit, the system comprising:

an e-commerce site ~~means~~ for distributing licensing modules to each said customer terminal computer via said network conduit; and

a program download site ~~means~~ for distributing program modules to each said customer terminal computer via said network conduit

wherein said licensing modules and said program modules each comprise executable software applications for execution on programmable computers, one said

licensing module cooperating with one said program module to function as a whole software application, said distribution of one said program module is responsive to the prior execution of one said licensing module on one said customer terminal computer.

11. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 10, wherein said e-commerce site ~~means~~ comprises an executable software application being executed on said e-commerce server computer.

12. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 11, wherein said program download site ~~means~~ comprises an executable software application being executed on said supplier server computer.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 10 14, wherein each said distribution of one said program module commences automatically in response to user input to said executed licensing module through said input device ~~means~~ of said customer terminal computer.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 15, wherein the execution of said program module defines a licensed condition and an unlicensed condition, said program module executes in said licensed or unlicensed condition responsive to output from said licensing module.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein execution of said program module in said unlicensed condition is permitted for a pre-defined period of time, whereby expiration of said pre-defined period of time will prevent said program module from further execution.

18. (Currently amended) A method of distributing a software product, via distributors, to users, over a computer network comprising:

configuring the software product as a program module and a licensing module wherein both the program module and the licensing module are required in order to operate the software product, the licensing module comprising a portion of the software product that is customized for a distributor or a group of distributors and the program module consisting of ~~comprising~~ a portion of the software product that is not customized for ~~the a specific distributor or group of distributors,~~ the program module comprising executable software code,

~~configuring the licensing module to the requirements of a distributor,~~
storing the configured licensing module at a first ~~the distributor's~~ software distribution point so that it may be downloaded by a user, and
storing the program module at a location other than the first ~~distributor's~~ software distribution point.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein, subsequent to downloading the licensing module and if certain predetermined conditions are met, the user may download the program module.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein one of the predetermined conditions is payment or promise of payment for the software product.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein one of the predetermined conditions is that the user register the software product.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising updating the software product by modifying the program module but not modifying the licensing module.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein subsequent to downloading the licensing module the user may run the licensing module.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein running the licensing module automatically downloads the program module.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the user may run the licensing module only within a predetermined time period after downloading the licensing module.

26. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the program module is larger than the licensing module.